

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims in a continuation application. Claims 19-24 are sought to be added, with claim 19 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been entered based on these amendments.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,953,388 to Barada ("Barada") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,604,892 to Carraras ("Carraras"), or in the alternative, in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,948,082 to Zumbach ("Zumbach"). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Although the Applicant continues to disagree with the rejections, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-18 in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant believes the canceling of these claims renders the rejections moot.

New Claims 19-24

None of the applied patents teach or suggest the claimed invention described in claims 19-24. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner find claims 19-24 allowable over the applied patents.

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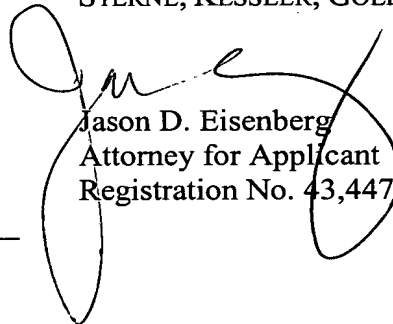
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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